

GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL W. ACKERMAN

During All the Time That Germany Was Complaining About the Treatment of the United States and the Results of the Allied Blockade, the Kaiser's Government Was Doing Everything to Prevent an Amicable Adjustment Being Reached Between the Two Nations.

American Women, Especially Wives of United States Consular Officials Leaving Germany, Were Subjected to the Most Vicious Treatment by the German Border Guards—Many of the Victims Did Not Fully Recover From the Shock of the Ordeal for Months

WHILE Germany was arguing that the United States was responsible for her desperate situation economically, and while President Wilson was being blamed for not breaking the Allied blockade, the German Foreign Office was doing everything within its power to prevent German goods from being shipped to the United States. When, through the efforts of Ambassador Gerard, numerous attempts were made to get German goods, including medicines and dyestuffs, to the United States, the German Government replied that these could not leave the country unless an equal amount of goods were sent to Germany. Then when the State Department arranged for an equal amount of American goods to be shipped in exchange the German Foreign Office said all these goods would have to be shipped to and from German ports. When the State Department listened to this demand and American steamers were started on their way to Hamburg and Bremen the German Navy was so busy sowing mines off these harbors to keep the English fleet away that they failed to notify the American skippers where the open channels were. As a result so many American ships were sunk trying to bring goods into German harbors that it became unprofitable for American shippers to try to accommodate Germany.

Germany Interprets U. S. History

About this time also the German Government began its policy of discouraging American business in Germany. Ambassador Gerard had had a long wrangle with the Chancellor over a bill which was introduced in the Reichstag shortly after the beginning of the war to purchase all foreign oil properties "within the German Customs Union." The bill was examined by Mr. Gerard, who for a number of years was a Supreme Court Judge of New York. He discovered that the object of the bill was to put the Standard Oil Company out of business by purchasing all of this company's property except that located in Hamburg. This was the joker. Hamburg was not in the German Customs Union, and the bill provided for the confiscation of all property not in this union.

Mr. Gerard called upon the Chancellor and told him that the United States Government could not permit such a bill to be passed without a vigorous protest. The Chancellor asked Mr. Gerard whether President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan would ever protect such a corporation as the Standard Oil Company was supposed to be. Mr. Gerard replied that the very fact that these two officials were known in the public mind as having no connection with this corporation would give them an opportunity of defending its interests the same as the Government would defend the interests of any other American. The Chancellor seemed surprised at this statement and Mr. Gerard continued about as follows:

"You know that Germany has already been discriminating against the Standard Oil Company. You know that the Prussian State railways charge this American corporation twice as much



"Barthmann, an American business man residing in Berlin, was told that he would have to sign a sworn statement before his passport would be returned. This statement said that neither he nor the American firms he represented had sold or would sell shoes to the Allies."

to ship oil from Hamburg to Bremen as they charge the German oil interests to ship Rumanian oil from the Austrian border to Berlin. Now don't you think that's enough?"

The interview ended here and the bill was never brought up in the Reichstag.

But this policy of the Government of intimidating and intriguing against the American interests was continued until diplomatic relations were broken. In December, 1916, Adolph Barthmann, an American citizen, who owned the largest shoe store in Berlin, desired to close his place of business and go to the United States. It was impossible for him to get American shoes because of the Allied blockade and he had decided to discontinue business until peace was made.

Throughout the war it has been necessary for all Americans, as well as all other neutrals, to obtain permission from the police before they could leave. Barthmann went to police headquarters and asked for authority to go to the United States. He was informed that his passport would have to be examined by the General Staff and that he could call for it within eight days. At the appointed day Barthmann appeared at police headquarters, where he was informed by the police captain that upon orders of the General Staff he would have to sign a paper and swear to the statement that neither he nor the American firms he represented had sold, or would sell, shoes to the Allies. Barthmann was told

that this statement would have to be sworn to by another American resident of Berlin, and that unless this was done he would not be permitted to return to Germany after the war. Mr. Barthmann had to sign the document under protest before his American passport was returned.

The facts in this, as in the many other instances which I have narrated, are in the possession of the State Department at Washington.

Practicing "Frightfulness" Upon Americans

When the German Government began to fear that the United States might some day join the Allies if the submarine campaign was renewed, it campaigned by threatening the United States with a Russian-Japanese-German alliance after the war against England and the United States. These threats were not disguised. Ambassador Gerard was informed, indirectly and unofficially, of course, by German financiers and members of the Reichstag that Germany "would be forced" to make such an alliance if the United States ever joined the Allies. As was shown later by the instructions of Secretary of State Zimmermann to the German Minister in Mexico City, Germany has not only not given up that idea, but Germany now looks forward to Mexico as the fourth member of the league.

As Germany became more and more suspicious of Americans in Germany who were not openly pro-German, she made them suffer when they crossed the German frontier to go to neutral

"No matter who the American is who admired Germany, or who respected Germany, or who sympathized with Germany as she was before the beginning of the war, no American can now support this Germany which I have just described against his country."

ON THE Kaiser's birthday services were held in all Protestant churches in Germany. The clergy was mobilized to encourage the people. On January 29 I sent the following dispatch after attending the impressive services in the Berlin Cathedral: "Where one year ago Dr. Dryander, the quiet, white-haired man who is court preacher, pleaded for an hour for peace in the services marking the Kaiser's birthday, this year his sermon was a fiery defense of Germany's cause and a militant plea for Germany to steel herself for the decisive battle every one believes is coming."

"In this changed spirit he reflected the sentiment of the German people. His sermon of Saturday has evoked the deepest approval everywhere."

"We know," he said, "that before us is the decisive battle which can be fought through only with the greatest sacrifices. But in all cases of the past God has helped us, and God will fight for us today, through our leaders and our soldiers. We neither will nor wanted this war—neither the Kaiser nor the people. We hoped for peace as the Kaiser extended his peace proposal, but with unheard-of frivolity and insults our enemies slapped the back of the Kaiser's extended hand of peace."

"To such enemies there is only one voice—that of the cannon. We continue the war with a clear conscience and with trust in God that He will bring us victory. God cannot—He will not—permit the German people to go down."

countries. The German military authorities at border towns such as Warnemuende and Bentheim took a dislike to American women who were going to Holland or Denmark, and especially to the wives of United States consular officials.

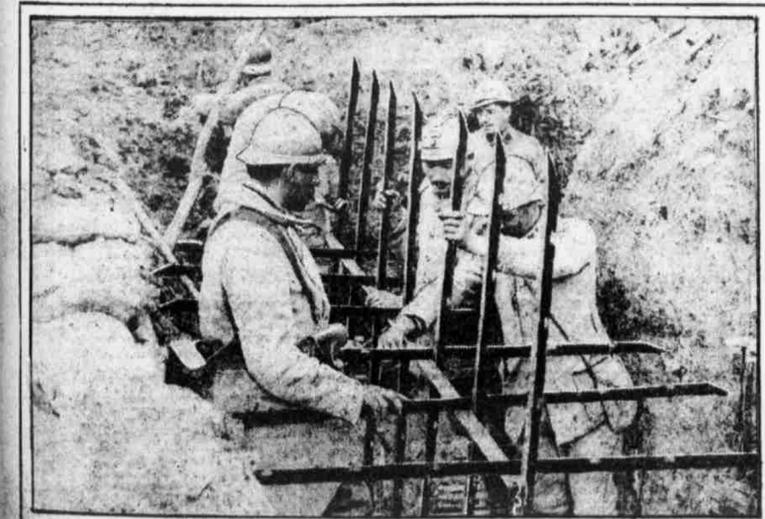
One time when I was going from Berlin to Copenhagen I learned from the husband of one of the women examined at the border what the authorities had done to her. I saw her before and after the ordeal, and when I heard of what an atrocious examination they had made I understood why she was in bed ten days afterward and under the constant care of physicians. Knowing what German military officers and German women detectives had done in some of the invaded countries, one does not need to know the details of these insults. It is sufficient to state that after the wives of several American officials and other prominent American residents of Berlin had been treated in this manner the State Department wrote a vigorous and defiant note to Germany stating that unless the practice was immediately discontinued the United States would give up the oversight of all German interests in Allied countries. The ultimatum had the desired effect. The German Government replied that while the order of the General Staff could not be changed, it would be waived in practice.

No matter who the American is who admired Germany, or who respected Germany, or who sympathized with Germany as she was before or at the beginning of the war, no American can support this Germany which I have just described against his own country. The Germany of 1913, which was admired and respected by the scientific, educational and business world; the Germany of 1913, which had no poor, which took better care of its workmen than any nation in the world; the nation which was considered in the advance of all countries in dealing with economic and industrial problems, no longer exists. The Germany which produced Bach, Beethoven, Schiller, Goethe and other great musicians and poets has disappeared. The musicians of today write hate songs. The poets of today pen hate verses. The scientists of today plan diabolical instruments of death. The educators teach suspicion and disregard for everything which is not German. Business men have sided with the Government in a ruthless submarine warfare in order to destroy property throughout the world, so that every nation will have to begin at the bottom with Germany when the war is over.

The Germany of 1914 and 1915, which arose like one man to defend the nation, is not the Germany which today is down on the whole world and which believes that its organized might can defend it against every and all nations. The Germany I saw in 1915, composed of sympathetic, calm, charitable, patient people, is today a Germany made up of nervous, impatient, deceptive and suspicious people.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

NEWS TOLD IN PICTURES FROM THE WAR FRONT AND OTHER CENTERS OF ACTIVITY



FRENCH TROOPERS CONSTRUCT A "NEST" ON THE WEST FRONT
Pickets of this design create an almost impassable barrier against "boche" counter-attacks along newly captured lines in the Flanders sector, now the center of Field Marshal Haig's latest drive, in conjunction with his French allies.



Photo by International Film Service
A SUSPECTED FRENCH LEGISLATOR
Deputy Turmel, who is under suspicion of dealing with enemy subjects. The Minister of Justice has made demand that he be prosecuted.



Photograph by Underwood & Underwood
AUSTRIAN AIRMEN ARE PROVING NO MATCH FOR ITALIAN FLYERS
This official Italian photograph, showing an Austrian airplane brought down by an adversary in the River Vipiteno, on the Carso front, furnishes an instance of the progress made in aerial warfare by King Victor's forces since entering the war.



A SHUTOUT OF THE POLICE BUREAU
Transfer to command of three districts within one day puts Lieutenant George W. Smith in possession of a record some-what unique.



Copyright, Underwood & Underwood—British Official Photograph
BRITISH GIRL MUNITION WORKERS EXTEND HEARTY WELCOME TO AMERICANS
This throng of pretty girls formed a picturesque part of the celebration of Anglo-American Day at Blackpool, England. Sir P. E. Smith, the British Attorney General, and the Mayor of Blackpool also had a share in the program and procession which greeted the "Allies."



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"COMMANDER OF THE MOTORTRUCK BRIGADE"
Brigadier General (Courtesy) [Name] when his promotion to the President has been confirmed by the war. [Name] is now a [Name].